

"The Relation of Pharmacology to Therapeutics" (1884) is scholarly, and even eighteen years later is full of interest and suggestion. "Spiritus Ætheris Nitrosi" (1883), "Ethyl Nitrite" (1888), and a comparison of these in the latter year seems at this time a presentation of well-known facts, yet when published had great influence in shaping medical opinion and determining therapeutical practice. Intermediate (1885) appeared the paper "On the Duration of Action of Medicines, with Especial Reference to the Nitrites and Nitroglycerin." The important feature of the book is to be found in the subjects discussed in the Croonian Lectures of 1893, to which we have in another place called attention in this JOURNAL. Here the facts and the possibilities of combinations of various bases with nitrate and even nitrate radicals were presented as they never had been before, and even reading the lectures to-day they are fully abreast of the times; yet in the summary (p. 159) the author fully recognizes the fact that much as he had already accomplished a still larger field invites investigation. To add to the value of the work a most excellent bibliography is appended, and the thirty-eight plates show graphically the statements made in the text. Although most advanced clinicians are conversant with the author's conclusions, and even his papers, as they originally appeared, all will welcome their assembling in one volume, revised in part to 1900. In presenting this volume, in a way a monument to the memory of its brilliant author, the editor has shown not only ability, which his own writings have demonstrated, but as well a sympathy with both the lamented author and his work.

R. W. W.

ATLAS AND EPIHOME OF TRAUMATIC FRACTURES AND DISLOCATIONS.

By PROFESSOR DR. H. HELFERICH, Professor of Surgery at the Royal University, Greifswald, Prussia. Authorized Translation from the German. Edited by JOSEPH C. BLOODGOOD, M.D., Associate in Surgery, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. Fifth edition, revised and enlarged. With 216 colored illustrations on 64 lithographic plates, and 190 figures in the text. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders & Co., 1902.

It is fortunate for authors and publishers, if not for students and readers, that all the elements of a topic are rarely if ever treated and illustrated in one book with an equal degree of completeness and success.

In the province of pathological anatomy of fractures and dislocations, the brilliantly—almost diagrammatically—colored lithographic plates of Helferich's *Hand Atlas* may be said to be unsurpassed. But in the matter of skiagraphic illustration, although some of the plates are excellent, it cannot compete with the work of Hopkins, nor in treatment with that of Scudder.

In his first edition, the author states that his *Atlas and Epitome* is intended for the student and also as a ready handbook of reference for the practitioner. That this work is now in its fifth edition testifies that its excellence has been appreciated. Its small and compact form make it particularly helpful in fulfilling the author's purpose. Its conciseness, completeness, and admirably illustrative character make it particularly serviceable to the student of the anatomy of fracture and dislocation.

From the American standpoint the suggestions on treatment are marred by unnecessarily complicated apparatus and requirements, such as recumbent and weight-extension and counter-extension treatment in simple fractures of the arm, and the statement that an anæsthetic and two assistants are preferable for the reduction of a simple Colles fracture. This fault of national idiosyncrasy of method is minimized, and the value of the book for use in this country much increased by Dr. Bloodgood's many and pertinent editorial notes. The latter are mainly in supplement to the text, sometimes in emphasis of it, and occasionally in frank advance of a contrary but valuable opinion.

J. M. S.

SURGICAL ANATOMY: A TREATISE ON HUMAN ANATOMY IN ITS APPLICATION TO THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY. By JOHN B. DEAVER, M.D. In three volumes. Vol. III. Abdomen, Pelvic Cavity, Lymphatics of the Abdomen and Pelvis, Thorax, Lower Extremity. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1903.

WHEN we reviewed the first two volumes of the work,¹ of which the third and last is before us, we remarked on the great difficulty we experienced in rendering a just judgment. In short, we admired but could not approve. Our state of mind is now precisely what it was then. We have nothing to add and nothing to retract as regards our general remarks on the book. There are still the same causes for admiration and criticism. The plates are magnificent, and there is a profusion of them. Those of the abdomen are excellent, and among them we must particularly mention the view of the relations of the peritoneum to the posterior wall. We could have wished for more figures of frozen sections. There are, indeed, some very good transverse sections of the thorax; but we think it should have been stated that at least some of them are through the thorax of a young child. We regret that there are no similar slices of the abdomen. Plate CCCLXXXII., showing the relations of the kidneys, spleen, pancreas, and duodenum, is so good that we wish all the more for others like it. Of late it has become an axiom that the true shape and relations of organs are to be learned only on bodies hardened by either cold or reagents; but very little use has been made of these methods.

In our first notice we said that the anatomy was that of a former epoch. As evidence that this still holds good, we may mention that the right bronchus is said to be more horizontal than the left, and that the stomach is described with the lesser curvature above and the greater below. We should add that it is stated that when the stomach is empty the lesser curvature is directed upward and the greater curvature downward, but even this concession to modern views is hardly adequate. Three-fourths of the organ are said to be in the left hypochondrium, but even the diagram (Plate CCCXLVII.), exaggerating, as it does, the left portion of the stomach, does not support the assertion. The structures in relation to the various organs are merely enumerated in what may be called a compendium-like manner.

¹ THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES, vol. CXXI., 1901.